carriages, generally or of any specified type, operating on city routes in towns with a population of not less than 5 lakhs. Accordingly, the State Governments are doing so keeping in view their basic requirements such as number of vehicles, road conditions, traffic conditions, vehicular pollution and other related aspects.

(b) The Government had received proposals from State Governments of Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Chandigarh Administration regarding limiting the number of contract carriages only.

Complaints against ITDC

1355. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of letters/memorandum/appeals/complaints, have been received by his Ministry from the Members of Parliament, Trade Unions/Associations about the mismanagement, inefficiency, irregularities and corruption cases in ITDC as reported frequently in media during the last two years till 25th Nov., 1999; and

(b) if so, the details of such letters/memorandum/appeals/complaints etc. and the action taken on each of them against the erring officials/Directors of ITDC till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) ITDC is multi-unit, multi-location and multi-activity organisation having a large number of Trade Unions/Associations/Federations operating in various units/offices. A number of letters/memoranda are received from Members of Parliament as also from Unions/Associations in various offices/units of ITDC. The letters as and when received are dealt with and action taken as per due procedure.

Development of Durga Hatkoti Temple (H.P.) as Tourist Centre

1356. MISS FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrim centres which have been identified for promotion to tourism in the country, with details of their names and funds allocated for development of each pilgrim centre;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to include Druga Hatkoti Temple of Himachal Pradesh for developing it is a Tourist centre during the next financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Development of Tourism Infrastructure including Pilgrim Centres is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, provides financial assistance to the States for projects/ schemes which are prioritised in consultation with them every year. The Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments have identified 46 Pilgrim Centres for tourism development in the country at places such as Tirupati, Bodhgaya, Nizammudin, Ujjain, Amritsar, Rameshwarm, etc. and an amount of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs has been allocated for pilgrim centres during 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) No proposal from State Government for development of Durga Hatkoti Temple (H.P.) as a tourist centre, has been received during financial year 1999-2000. However, Central Government has provided financial assistance for construction of a Tourist Lodge as Hatkoti in 1987-88.

Decline in Tourist inflow to Orissa

1357. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the flow of tourist to Orissa State after recent cyclone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to make adequate publicity to assure the tourist on their safety;

(d) the safety measures adopted by Government; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes, Sir.